

NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 9 NO. 26

Railway and the Wooden Token

By Charles Matsuda



While browsing through a bunch of old newspapers one day, I came across the *Honolulu Advertiser*. The newspaper stated, Late City Final, Wednesday Morning, August 15, 1945. History was in the making on this day, for it was V-J Day, the day when World War II was over. In bold black print, the headline read that the Allied Offense ended and the Japanese Cabinet quits! MacArthur to act as Supreme Allied Commander, a large celebration with a cry of "PEACE" in Honolulu.

Inside of the news section, practically unnoticed, was a small article on the Editorial page called, "History from our Files." An interesting note in the files read, "On August 15, 1905, a special train with President B.F. Dillingham of the Oahu Railway makes run from Haleiwa to Honolulu, a distance of 56 miles, in one hour and thirty-five minutes. Remembering the sounds of the railroad steam engine was an exciting and important era in Hawaii. This year's Honolulu Coin Club, third series of famous people of Hawaii wooden token features Benjamin Franklin Dillingham on the obverse, and the 100th Anniversary of the Oahu Railway and Land Company on the reverse.

Benjamin Franklin Dillingham was responsible in the building of the railroad transportation in Hawaii. At twenty-five, he arrived in Honolulu as a first mate on a sailing passenger and freight packet named the Whistler in 1865. He became a leader in Hawaiian business, building the railroad, and starting the sugar plantations on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island of Hawaii. 1989 is the centennial year of the Oahu Railway and Land Company for which B.F. Dillingham was responsible.

The wooden token will be sold 25¢ plus a self-addressed stamped envelope; address it to Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, HI 96818 or buy it at the Honolulu Coin Club Statehood Day Show which will be held at the Kapalama School Cafetorium on August 19, 1989.

AUGUST 23, 1989

HSNA Mini-Show

Three hundred and thirty-nine people attended the 8th Annual Hawaii State Numismatic Mini-Show at the Susannah Wesley Community Center on May 6, 1989. It was the first coin club show of the year, with nineteen coin dealers participating in a sellout of bourse tables.

An auction was held with 125 lots conducted by Greg Hunt (President of HCC and HSNA) as the auctioneer. Susan Hunt and M.F. Kendrick assisted with the auction sheets and items.

W.K. Young handled the registration desk for the day while Landis Niau prepared the delicious stew, rice and salad which were sold out by noon.

The coin exhibit was held by the members of the Honolulu Coin Club. Some of the displayers were F.A. Damon (foreign coins); Frank Reiplinger (early American Coins); William Spears (World War II U.S. Currency of Hawaii Overprint); W.K. Young (Federal Currency on "Star Notes"); Gary Lau (English Six Pence); Crane Saito (Japanese Cash Coins); and the only junior member of the Honolulu Coin Club, Dan Garrett (U.S. Type Coins).

The HSNA would like to thank every one who helped with the setting up and cleaning up after the show and for making it a real success.

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12 NOON - 8 PM

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

NOV 10TH - 11TH

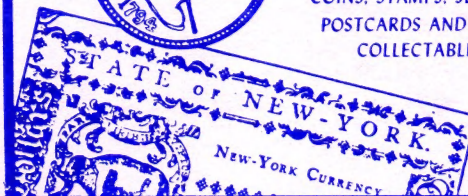
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SUNDAY - NOV 12TH

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PRIZES



Incoming President, Don Nigro, Left, receives the gavel of office from outgoing President, Michael Wonn, during Big Island Coin Club ceremonies.

THE BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB
Meeting are held on the first Thursday
of each month at 7 p.m. at the YMCA,
300 Lanikaula Street, in Hilo.

the
HSNA
*Souvenir
Booklet*
still available!



This souvenir program is one of the few publications on Hawaiian numismatics. The program can be ordered by mail for \$2.50 postpaid from the Hawaii State Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 477, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809.



HAVE FUN!
JOIN A COIN CLUB!!

THE KAUAI HIGH BRASS TOKEN

By

Glenn Yokoyama



The Token: Brass, round, 20mm, Obv.: KAUAI HIGH LUNCH 5¢
Rev.: Same as obverse
Quantity known: 15

As you might imagine the appearance of a previously unlisted Hawaiian school lunch token can cause a bit of a stir. Such as it was back in September, 1986, when Greg Hunt, President of the Honolulu Coin Club and noted Hawaiiana collector, passed the word around the floor of the Stamp and Coin Dealers show that if you collected school lunch tokens you *had* to see Vern Lower right away. What Vern, of Lowe's Rare Coins located in the Waikiki Shopping Plaza, had was a group of Kauai High School lunch tokens. He had the moderately rare aluminum token (TL-50), but what was causing the stir was a number of brass tokens. The aluminum tokens showed signs of pitting and corrosion and were selling for about \$12. The brass tokens looked to be in good condition, except they were probably dipped or polished. These sold for about \$95-\$100.

So where did they come from? The story is that a group of kids were digging in or around the Kauai High School campus on the bluff overlooking Nawiliwili Harbor and unearthed a hoard of aluminum and brass Kauai High tokens. The corrosion on the aluminum and the polishing of the brass is probably what started the unearthing theory.



Back to the story—the kids must have seen the ad in *The Garden Isle* under "Wanted to Buy" reading, "Old Hawaiian license plates, soda & milk bottles, tokens, stamps, photographs, etc. THE ONLY SHOW IN TOWN 822-1442." This Kapaa antique store has lots of old collectibles, but not many coins or tokens, except for a collection of Kauai High School lunch tokens on display (definitely not for sale) and included one brass Kauai High token.

From Kauai the tokens made their way to Vern Lowe in Waikiki. According to Charles Pepe, Lowe's associate, they handled fourteen brass specimens. So there are fifteen known brass tokens. An informal count revealed the following holders: THE ONLY SHOW IN TOWN, Lowe, ex-Pepe (he traded his), Hunt, other Honolulu Coin Club members (7), unidentified (4).

The remaining mystery is that since the tokens passed through so many hands, did any of them hold onto any with thoughts of selling them at a later date? It's been three years now and none have turned up since. But as in all recent finds, the possibility remains that more will turn up. Happy hunting!



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COIN CLUBS OF HAWAII

"BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB"

April '89—"Love Tokens" talk by Rick Howsley was postponed due to bad weather, however, 18 members and guests braved a heavy rainstorm to attend the meeting. An auction and door prizes capped the meeting.

May '89—Rick Howsley gave a talk on "Love Tokens" with 20 members and guests present. The Club is moving ahead with plans for a 25th anniversary celebration in October 1989 and the striking of a one ounce silver medal.

June '89—"My Oldest Coin" was the highlight of the meeting. Twenty-four members and guests were present. The meeting was followed by an auction and door prizes.

July '89—New officers were installed:

President	—Don Nigro
Vice President	—Rick Howsley
Recording Secretary	—Mildred Murakami
Corresponding Secretary	—Walt Southward
Treasurer	—Jim Moore
Sergeant-at-Arms	—Col. Jerry Phillips
Directors	—Alton Chow Roger Chikuami Marie Owen

As immediate past President, Mike Wonn will serve on Board (Director). A potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

"HONOLULU COIN CLUB"

April '89—Junior Advisor, Dan Garrett, spoke on the Lincoln Memorial Cent Collection Project for juniors and adults. Lamarr Hardy spoke on "The Million Dollar Bill." Over 40 adults and 4 juniors and guests were present. An Auction and door prizes followed.

—Preparations were discussed for the HSNA/Honolulu Coin Club Mini-Show (May 6, 1989). Present were 46 adults and 7 juniors and guests. An auction and door prizes concluded the meeting.

May '89—Club Mini Coin Show information was given by Treasurer C. Matsuda. An auction and door prizes followed. Over 35 adults and 4 juniors and guests were present. Hawaii's first—Susanna Hunt was selected as one of ten winners of the Young Numismatist Scholarship award from ANA. A FIRST FOR HAWAII!

June '89—Fire at Susannah Wesley Community Center prevented us from having a meeting on the 2nd Wednesday. The fourth Wednesday meeting was held with little business being done. A small auction and door prizes concluded the meeting.



Honolulu Coin Club Library

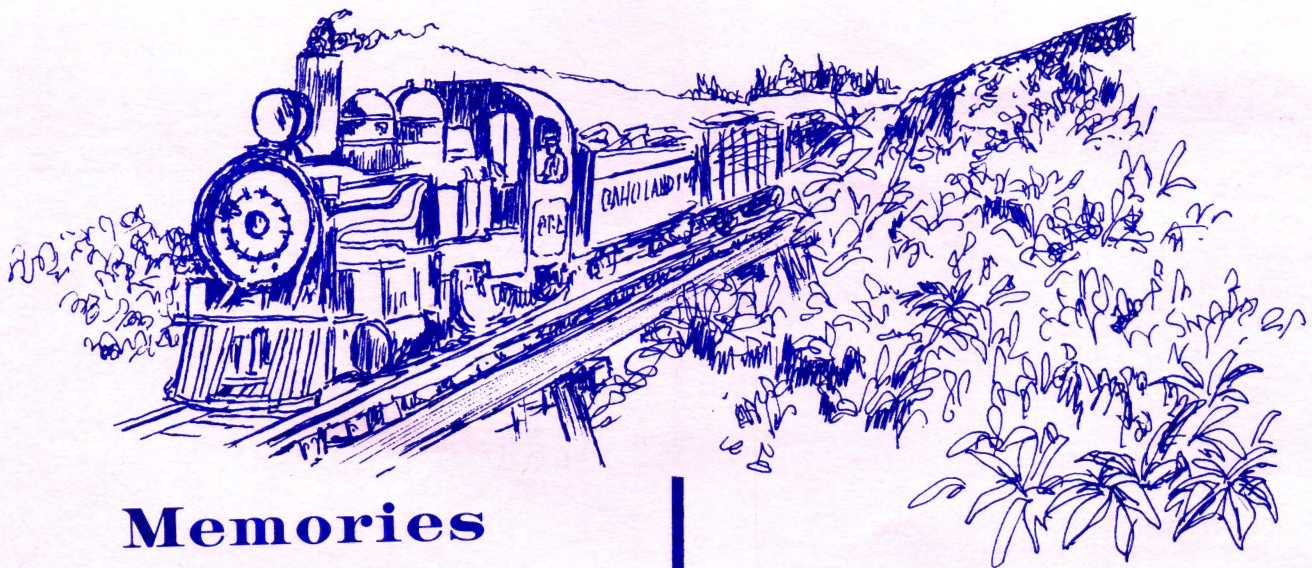
The Honolulu Coin Club has started a small library for its members. Members of the Club with good standing can borrow a book between meetings. In other words, a book borrowed at a meeting must be returned at the next meeting. This will enable other members a chance to borrow the book. Because of the small volume of books we have, each member is limited to two books per borrowing time. Members will be responsible for payment on all damaged and lost books. Take care of the books and they will last a long time for the members. All books may be borrowed upon request. The following books that are available are:

<i>The Early Coins of America</i>	..... by Sylvester S. Crosby
<i>United States Cooper Coins</i>	..... by Q. David Bowers
<i>Detecting Counterfeit Coins</i>	..... by Lonesome John
<i>United States Dimes, Quarters, and Half Dollars</i>	..... by Q. David Bowers
<i>Catalog of Modern World Coins</i>	..... by R.S. Yeoman
<i>High Profits from Rare Coin Investment</i>	..... by Q. David Bowers
<i>Coins—Questions and Answers</i>	..... by Clifford Mishler
<i>Coinage Guide</i>	..... by Robert Irwin Wolenik
<i>United States Gold Coins Volume VI</i>	..... by David W. Akers
<i>World Paper Money, Vol. 1</i>	..... by Albert Pick
<i>World Paper Money, Vol. 2</i>	..... by Albert Pick
<i>Adventures with Rare Coins</i>	..... by Q. David Bowers
<i>Silver and Gold Commemorative Coins</i>	..... by Anthony Swiatek
<i>Early Half Dollar Die Varieties</i>	..... by Al C. Overton
<i>Penny Whimsy</i>	..... by William H. Sheldon

Books may be borrowed on a first come basis at the Honolulu Coin Club meeting. All books requested at the meeting may be borrowed at the following meeting. Happy reading!

Honolulu Coin Club

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Susannah Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street, 7:30 p.m. Gregory Hunt, president.



Memories of a Railroad

By Kazuma Oyama

Those of us who listen to Don Robb's "Rainbow Baseball" on radio are familiar with his "Arakawa on historical Depot Road just below the sugar mill in Waipahu" commercial. The Depot Road is a little older than Arakawa's which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Depot Road owes its name to Oahu Railway & Land Company which was started by Benjamin Franklin Dillingham a century ago in 1889. The old depot site is about a quarter mile below Farrington Highway. Nothing remains of the depot except in memories and photos. From Waipahu the railroad extended to Honouliuli, Ewa, the Waianae coast and around Kaena Point to Mokuleia, Waialua, Haleiwa and Kahuku. Reminders of the rails still exist along the Waianae coast with concrete structures that once supported railroad trestles. There still is a "Railroad Crossing" sign at Mokuleia just across the highway from the polo field. The bridge that once crossed Waimea Bay now has boards instead of rails and serves as a walkway alongside the highway bridge that spans the bay.

Later, the depot at Waipahu served as an important junction when the railroad extended up Waieke, Kipapa and Waikakalua gulches and climbed up to the Leilehua plateau, just below the present Hawaii National Guard armory across from Wheeler Air Force Base, and on into Wahiawa. Part of the railroad right-of-way is today buried under the H-2 Highway at the Wahiawa off-ramp. However, the rail-bridge that crossed the south fork of Kaukonahua Stream is still standing and is visible from the Kamehameha Highway bridge into Wahiawa. The bridge crossed to what is today the Wahiawa Fresh Water Park, launching site for boats using Lake Wilson (reservoir) for fishing.

The tracks then went through what today is known as Park Tract and to the Wahiawa Depot located on Cane Street. (According to one old time Wahiawa resident, Cane Street got its name because sugar canes were grown in Wahiawa before pineapples). From Wahiawa the tracks extended by way of a high and long bridge across the north fork of the Kaukonahua Stream to Poamoho, Helemano and Brodie to haul pineapples to the canneries in Honolulu. When the water level is low in Lake Wilson the huge concrete bases that supported the trestle across the north fork of Kaukonahua Stream is visible from Thot Bridge that carry auto traffic to Haleiwa and the north shore.

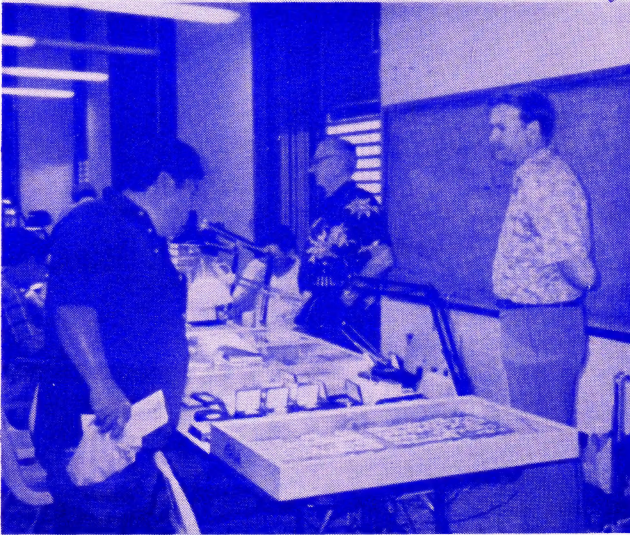
A rail spur also went up from Waikakalua gulch to what is present day Mililani Town. At the time there was a Libby, McNeil & Libby pineapple camp near the vicinity of today's Kipapa Elementary School. Another spur went from the vicinity of the present Hawaii National Guard armory into Wheeler and Schofield Barracks. In 1943, during World War II, the Hawaii volunteers for the Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team rode the train from Schofield Barracks to the depot in Honolulu, then walked from there to Pier 11 at Aloha Tower to board the Lurline for San Francisco. There were subsequent train rides on the Mainland U.S. and in Europe but that walk from the depot to Aloha Tower was the last walk on Hawaiian soil for the volunteers who were killed in action in Europe.

The beautiful Honolulu Depot building still stands at the corner of North King Street and Iwilei Road. It is directly across from Aala Park—the park made famous by the song "Manuela Boy." Some tracks and buildings of Oahu Railway are still visible in the area behind the depot.

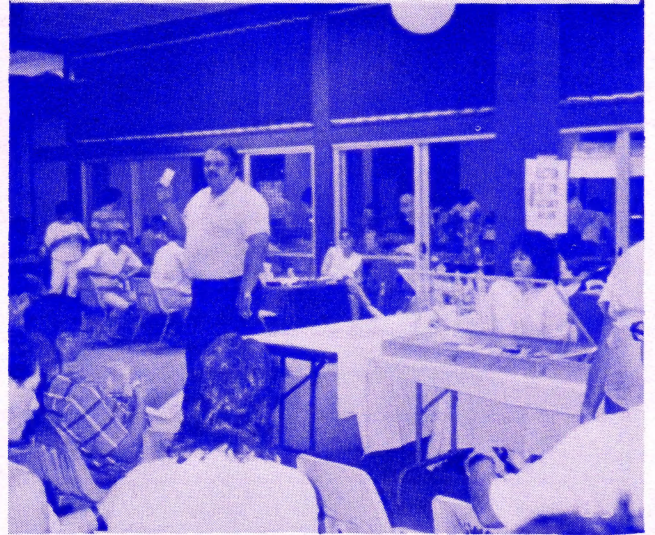
The TV news on June 25th, and a news article, editorial, and an editorial cartoon in the June 27th issue of the *Honolulu Advertiser* mentioned the possibility of resotring the rail system as part of a new transportation system. It is a coincidence that this talk of reviving the rails comes on the 100th anniversary of the Oahu Railways. The tracks from Pearl Harbor's West Lochs to Maili on the Waianae coast, as well as the right-of-way all the way to the vicinity of the Aloha Stadium in Aiea is now protected under the U.S. Historical Preservation Act, thanks to the efforts of the Hawaiian Railway Society and the timely intervention of the Hawaii State government a few years ago.

The Hawaiian Railway Society members with the help of other volunteers, including the military, has restored to useable condition about five miles of tracks and trestles. They have also restored to running condition some cars and locomotives. One of the ongoing projects at present is the restoration of the late Mr. B.F. Dillingham's private rail car. This car sat for many years on the grounds of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu until transported to the Society's yard at the end of Renton Road in Ewa, with the help of the Army Engineers from Schofield Barracks. It's worth the time to catch the bus or drive out to Ewa to see the collection of Oahu Railway as well as sugar plantation locomotives and cars—some awaiting repairs or restoration. The Hawaiian Railway Society members and volunteers work on weekends so that would be the best time to visit. Who knows, you may be able to ride on the train!

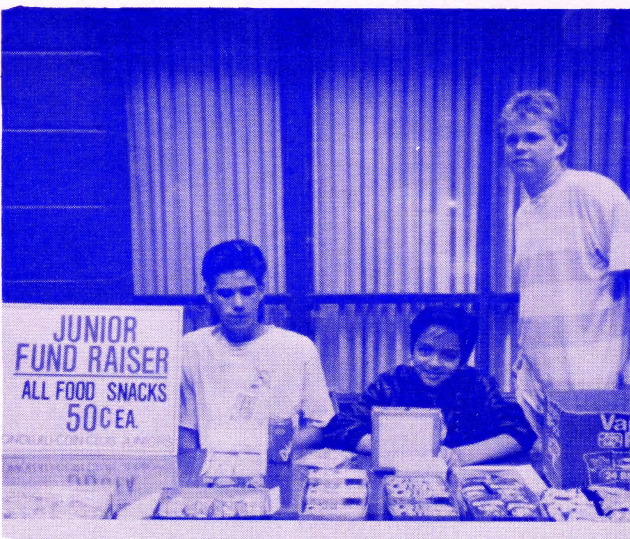
HSNA Mini Show Photos



Coin Dealers, Andy and Dave



Greg Hunt, Auctioneer



HCC Jrs, Fund Raiser



HSNA Show Security



Speaking of
HCC
Juniors

I've been in the Honolulu Coin Club for nine months. It's really fun going because we play bingo for coins. We have auctions for the coins too. It's also fun working with the President (Susanna), Vice President (Danny), and Treasurer (Shirley). It's also something to do on Wednesday nights. It's also fun working for tips at the coin shows.

Michelle Dyslin



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